



Croatia – Cycling Along the Istrian Peninsula (2024)
Individual Self-guided Tour
8 nights/7 days



Join us in an interesting cycling adventure along the Istrian peninsula. Ride along the east and west coasts, and into the Istrian inland. The tracks pass through beautiful landscapes dotted with old villages and picturesque towns. Sweep into glorious valleys with rivers and forests and emerge again onto the slopes of hills, meandering through tunnels, over bridges and viaducts, between the vineyards and olive groves of Istria's top producers. On our journey we will pass through the medieval towns of Grožnjan and Motovun, situated on hilltops which afford fantastic views. We will also visit the former Roman colonies of Poreč and Pula, which have kept impressive traces of the Roman Empire. Among the charms of culture and the beauty of nature, enjoy the richness of flavors of local Istrian cuisine, excellent Istrian wines and olive oil.



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Itinerary Day to Day



Day 1: Arrival in Poreč

Info meeting with tour representative at their office where you will be provided with the package including hotel vouchers, bicycle with all equipment, maps and a road book. Overnight in Poreč

Day 2: Poreč - Buje 72 km

Our cycling tour of Istria will start with a ride around Poreč, the town where you can find material and spiritual evidences of great cultures at every step. Walk along the old city center and you will find there the Roman Forum, magnificent palaces from different historical periods, and to top it all, the famous

Euphrasian Basilica (Euphrasiana). The ride along this trail is particularly pleasant because you are riding along the coastline with beautiful bays, where you can enjoy the breathtaking Mediterranean landscape with green vineyards and olive groves and taste homemade food, wine, brandy and honey produced in this area. Continuing along the trail, you will reach Višnjan, a little place that vaunts an astronomical observatory ranked among the five most important observatories in the world. Passing by Mirna river delta and Novigrad you'll arrive in Umag. Umag is a town that, apart for its incandescent Riviera, vaunts a rich historical heritage and a unique event – the festival of the traditional organ (Organum Histriae). Situated on a peninsula and founded in the transitional period from late antiquity into the early middle age, it has a historic center that loudly speaks with the spirit of the old Venetian Republic. Continuing to northernmost point of Istria (Savudrija) and finishing first day in Buje area.

Day 3: Buje- Buzet 54 km

On the way to Buzet we will ride across Grožnjan – a typical Istrian medieval town sprout high on top of the hill along the right coast of the river Mirna, vaunting its centenary walls, its renaissance loggia dating from 1585 and the beautiful St. Vitus and Modesto's baroque church. If you just occasionally ride along its streets in which almost every door leads to art studios or galleries, and which windows from every direction echoes the sounds of different music genres, from classical to jazz, you'll understand why Grožnjan is known as "the town of artists". Šterna – a village named after a big local cistern (on local dialect – Šterna) situated on the large plateau intersected by water flows. Oprtalj, with unchanged



urban medieval disposition, the narrow streets, the shops, the beautiful Venetian palaces, portals and covered passages, and particularly the unique view to the Istrian peninsula from the town loggia, according to many the most beautiful of Istria. Buzet, known as long as in the Roman times as Pinquentium, today is named as "the City of truffles", considering that the surrounding forests along the valley of the river Mirna cover some of the best areas of the entire Istria for the hunting of this divine tuberous fungus. Overnight in Buzet.



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Day 4: Buzet - Labin 67 km

After a steep climb to Prodani the road leads to one of the most attractive and picturesque Istrian medieval towns – Draguć. The place which, until some hundred years ago lived from the cultivation of the silk worm today is almost completely abandoned. However, its unforgettable natural position and the exceptional beauty of the stone architecture, the modest palaces, the walls and the old churches, perhaps could seem better known. Considering that right here there have been recordings of numerous national and foreign production movies and TV series, like the movies "The 3 Musketeers". Pazin – a true heart of Istria! First written records referring to the city as Castrum

Pisinum appeared in 983 and presently, Pazin is known as a commercial, cultural and educational center of entire central Istria. Unique for its spectacular position above the abyssal cave, Pazin holds the medieval Castle – Kaštel (today, the Ethnographic Museum of Istria and the Municipal Museum are both in the castle) located on the verge of a 130 meters deep abyss. From Pazin you pass through Gračišće, an absolute pearl of the Istrian hinterland. The entrance into this town can be really enchanting: a magnificent Salomon Mansion made in the combination of gothic and renaissance styles, it makes you think for a moment as if you were lost in some distant corner of Venice. Continue further through Kršan, feudal land property, having obtained its name for the rockiness of the spot and at the same time, was erected on the foundations of an ancient early medieval burg, we arrive in Rabac, the pearl of the Kvarner bay. Overnight in Labin/Rabac.

Day 5: Labin - Pula 53 Km

After breakfast we ride across Raša, the first modern mining town in Istria and Barban to Pula. On the way you will find "Liburna", a nature reserve of autochthon animals. Apart from these charming animals, in particular sociable donkeys, you will find here a unique ethnological collection of antique tools. Which city is situated on seven hills, has a magnificent Amphitheater and is not Rome? The answer is - Pula. No, it is not a mistake – you are, indeed, in front of Pula, the largest city in Istria. Pula is an enchantress with a thousand appearances which has been casting spell on its visitors for centuries. This day we finish visiting the old city with the Sergius' Triumphal Arch (from the end of the 1st century B.C. and the beginning of the 1st century A.D.) and famous Arena, a Roman amphitheater (from the 1st century B.C.). Overnight in Pula.





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Day 6: Pula - Rovinj 61 Km

After breakfast we ride along the coastline towards Rovinj. You will head for the mysterious world of Bale region, proud for its glorious Soardo-Bembo Castle of the Gothic and Renaissance period and the parish church of St. Julian. Bale had been developed from the ancient Roman castrum (military fortification) along Via Flava, the ancient Roman road that used to connect Trieste and Pula. Svetvinčenat, with its grandiose Morosini-Grimani citadel with towers, parish church, municipal loggia and a line of 16th century houses of the Renaissance and a town cistern - šterna in the middle, Savičenta really belongs to a range of the most attractive Venetian creations of that period effected in this region, and which held one of the rare witchcraft trials in Istria during 17th century. This day finishes in Rovinj.

Day 7: Rovinj - Poreč 60 Km

A marsh, rare birds, a cursed city, buried pirate's treasure, a fjord, a cave with a primitive man and a hermit, an ancient solar observatory - all this you will find today biking. Our bike ride will take us across Kanfanar to the ruins of the medieval town of Dvigrad. Just to stir your imagination - you are now in an area where many legends and mysteries based on historical events still live on: that of Dvigrad devastated by the plague because of an ancient curse, of the buried treasure of Captain Morgan's pirates near the village named after him (Mrgani), of the cave where the remains of the primitive man were found and where, as legend has it, St Romuald used to live as a hermit in the Middle Ages. After riding along the coastline you will reach Vrsar, a romantic



fishermen village where the famous Casanova came back even two times. This one week bike tour finishes in Poreč/Vrsar where you will spend the last night.

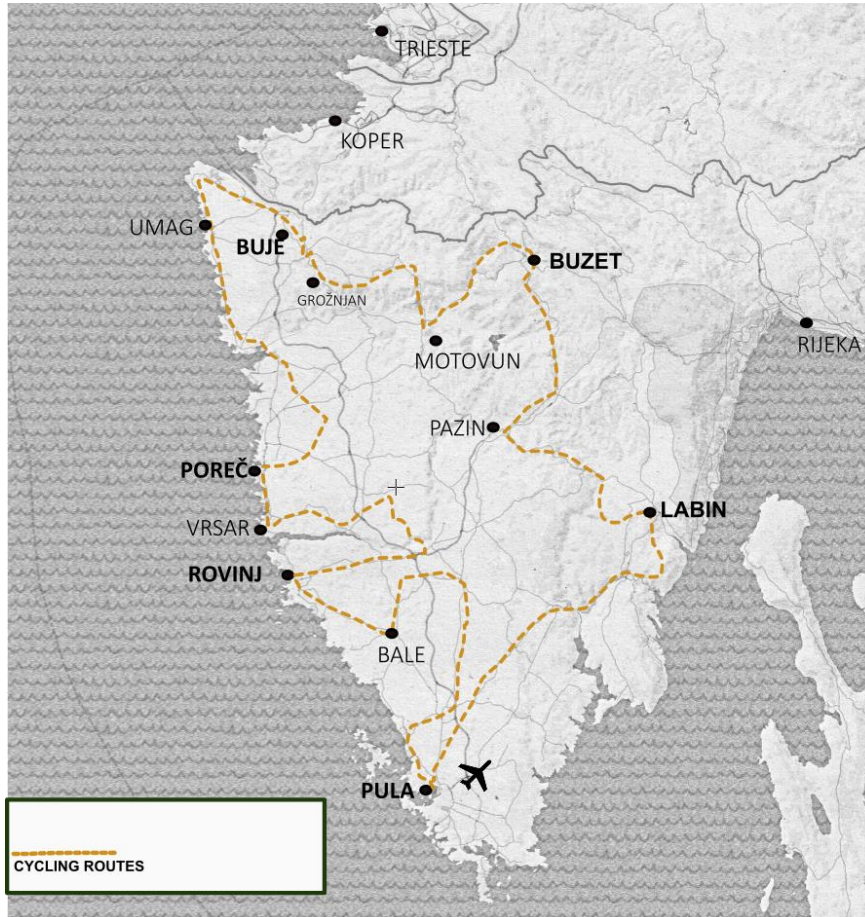
Day 8: Departure

Departure after breakfast



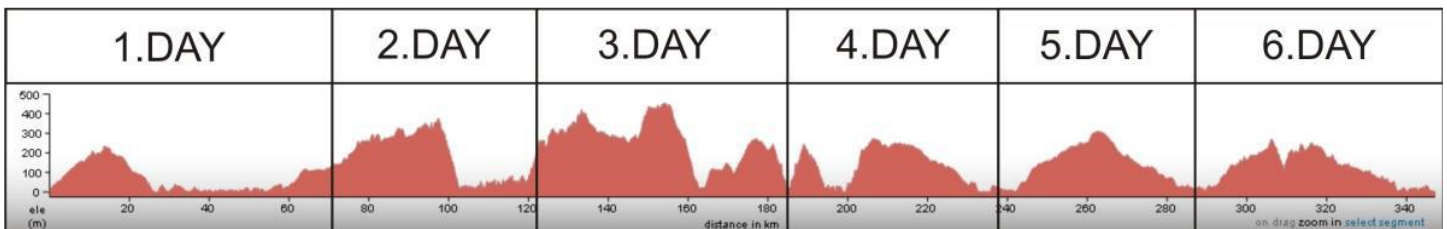
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Route



Technical Characteristics:

Tour Difficulty: Average. This route requires moderate degree of fitness.



Distance: 365 km

Travel Season: Daily departures from March 15 to November 15

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Price per person:

	March 15 – Apr 19	April 20 – June 19 Sept 20 – Nov 30	June 20 – Sept 19
Double Occupancy Classic Hotel	€990	€1160	€1230
Supplement Single Room Classic Hotel	€340	€380	€380
Supplement Solo Traveler Classic Hotel	€580	€620	€620
Double Occupancy Premium Hotel	€1250	€1450	€1620
Supplement Single Room Premium Hotel	€550	€660	€750
Supplement Solo Traveler Premium Hotel	€790	€900	€900
Carbon Road Bike Rental per week	€265		
Hybrid Bike Rental per week	€150		
GPS Rental per week	€50		
Electric Bike Rental per week	€265		
SPD Clipless Pedals Rental per week	€10		
Extra Side Pannier per week	€10		

Included:

- Info meeting
- 2 x overnight in Poreč 3*
- 1 x overnight in Buje 3*
- 1 x overnight in Buzet 3*/4*
- 1 x overnight in Labin 3*/4*
- 1 x overnight in Pula 3*
- 1 x overnight in Rovinj 3*
- 7 x breakfast
- Information package including detailed route description (map and road book) and vouchers
- Luggage transport between accommodations
- 24/7 emergency number

Not Included:

- Travel and bike insurance
- Arrival and departure from Istria
- Transfer to and from airport to hotel (can be organized)
- Lunches, dinners and drinks
- Bike rentals with equipment (tube repair kit, spare tube, pump, locks, bottle holder, rear rack and helmet if required)



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Bikes

1. Road Bike – Brand Z85



With the perfect blend of comfort and performance, the Z85 is just the bike to see you through your first century or gran fondo. Our Endurance Road FLite Custom-Butted aluminum frame will surprise you as much for its nimble handling as its comfort. To make sure it performs flawlessly under shifting on the hills or in a sprint we use Shimano's 11-speed 105 shifters and derailleurs. With its compact crank and wide-spaced cassette, this bike will take you up hills and mountains and get you back down with confidence.

Equipment: cycle computer, water bottle holder, saddle bag containing spare tube, tyre lever and tools, hand pump, lock.

AVAILABLE PEDALS: flat, toe cages, clipless pedals

AVAILABLE SIZES: 51, 54, 56, 58, 61 cm

2. Custom Built Hybrid Bike "Musing"



Our hybrid bikes are custom built and designed for several day touring. All of our hybrid bikes have adjustable stem and come in 6 different sizes, male and female frame, so we will be able to make perfect fit for you. Hybrid bikes are built from lightweight aluminum, and have wide gear range; triple chainring and 9 speed cassette, comfortable Selle Royal Freccia saddle, 28 inch wheels, fenders, integrated rear rack, dynamo powered lights

AVAILABLE PEDALS: flat, toe cages, clipless pedals

AVAILABLE SIZES: Men's bike 52, 55, 58, 61 cm

Woman's bike 43, 48, 53 cm

Extra equipment included in bike rental: 1 side pannier waterproof 20 liter, 1 handlebar bag or map holder, and helmet.
Equipment: cycle computer, water bottle holder, saddle bag containing spare tube, tyre lever and tools, rear rack, hand pump, lock.



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3. E-Bike “Kalkhoff – Tasman Impulse 8”



AVAILABLE PEDALS: flat

AVAILABLE SIZES: Unisex model M, L size

Extra equipment included in bike rental: 1 side panier waterproof 20 liter, 1 handlebar bag or map holder, helmet. Equipment: cycle computer, water bottle holder, saddle bag containing spare tube, tyre lever and tools, rear rack, hand pump, lock.

Assisting people in realizing their touring dreams worldwide is our passion.

www.okcycletours.com



THIS IS A PARTNER TOUR FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT
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